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enthusiasm of his subjects by reviving the recollection of the great deeds of their forefathers in the glorious wars of old, gave Lord Berners as a task the translation into English of Froissart's Chronicle—a task which he accomplished with much graphic power" (p. 226).

The chief difficulty in the method is that the writer strays too far away into his patches of history. He says that "he has refused to regard any event in the progress of European civilization as not germane to the subject and has selected many facts that may at first sight seem remote from it to illustrate his theme." Having premised thus much he grows as wayward as likes him. Now while the reader may be willing to follow even into the quarrels of petty princes in Burgundy or the Empire, he will never be content unless the *cui bono* is indicated by the leader. To point out the exact bearing of continental politics upon English madrigals is of course no easy task, and better not done than done fancifully. Mr. White has indeed spared us imaginary correlations; but in so doing he has more than once left his facts inexcusably isolated. Even foreign authors are named without a hint of their relation to our literature. To certain men so named—Bandello, for instance—we shall perhaps have retrospective reference in a later volume. But can there be a doubt that some hint of such future correlations is due the reader? It is not explaining the philosophy of literature to print a history of English poetry and a history of Italian painting in parallel columns, so to speak.

The real strength of Mr. White's book lies in its discussion of such men in English literature as belong also to English church history. Wiclif, Pecoek, men like these are written of brilliantly. So too are the poets and prosaists (like Gower, Hawes, Lindsay) whose writings bear on the ethical development of the race. So important is the moral and religious element in our early literature that this brief, often illuminating view of it, is valuable. This fact makes up for any disappointment one may feel that the two centers of interest, the historical and the literary, do not properly discharge into each other.

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*The Principles of Physics.* By ALFRED P. GAGE, PH.D. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1895.

THE inclination of the times towards scientific study has naturally been felt in the secondary schools, and along with this has come, for

the past few years, a wholesale publication of elementary scientific text books. Out of the large number published only a few have been worth the paper upon which they were printed. Dr. Alfred P. Gage's text-books, however, have been a notable exception to the rule. They have met with a deserved success, and it is pleasant to note that Dr. Gage has followed them up with a new work.

It is intended for two classes of students, those desirous of obtaining only the very elements of physics, and those who have the time and opportunity to go into the subject further. To facilitate the separation of the two courses, the additional matter necessary for the more advanced course is printed in smaller type and is indented about a quarter of an inch on the left hand margin of the page.

In separating the book into parts, the author follows the logical method of dividing the subject into, I. Molar Dynamics; II. Molecular Dynamics; III. Ether Dynamics, instead of using the old fashioned divisions of Mechanics, Sound, Heat, Light, and Electricity. After an introduction treating of units of measurement, and force in general, Part I., Molar Dynamics, is taken up. Here are studied Force and Momentum, Gravitation, Properties and Constitution of Matter, Molecular Forces, etc. A chapter is given to the dynamics of fluids, and one to sound. Under part II. a very clear discussion of Heat is given, considered only in its relation to molecules. Part III. treats, in the first chapter, of the radiant energy of the Ether, in regard to both its luminous and thermal effects, leaving for the last two chapters Magnetism and Electricity.

The diagrams and cuts are especially good, and the general appearance of the volume is very neat.

The value of this, as of any course in physics, is more than doubled when accompanied by a suitable selection of quantitative experiments to be performed by the student. A possible objection to the book, in the minds of some, might be that it contains too much, but, as the author says, "it is better to have too much than too little."

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JOHN B. EKELEY

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*A Primer of Historical English Grammar.* By HENRY SWEET.  
112 pages. Clarendon Press.

"THE object of this book," the author says, "is to give the essentials of historical English grammar as far as it is possible within the